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None

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A5B

(54) Laurel oil composition for the treatment of alopecia

(57) A composition effective in the treatment of alopecia is a suspension of finely ground glass in laurel oil. The composition is applied to the affected area with gentle rubbing.

SPECIFICATION

Composition for the treatment of alopecia

This invention relates to a composition for use in the treatment of alopecia.

- 5 Although the term alopecia refers generally to balding, particularly as part of the ageing process, which balding is frequently accepted as unavoidable and inevitable, premature balding which may take place at a young age and which
10 may be due to the same dermatological conditions as mature balding, namely failure to function of blood vessels at hair follicles and which may be brought on by a morbid condition is generally unacceptable. Treatment techniques hitherto
15 employed have sought mainly to prevent the baldness from spreading and the object of such techniques has been, when balding has been due to skin infection, to inactivate follicles in an infected area, that is kill the roots, and thus
20 provide a barrier which prevents the condition from spreading.

It is an object of this invention to provide a composition for the treatment of alopecia which not only prevents alopecia from spreading but
25 restores to normal growth areas already affected.

According to the present invention there is provided a composition for use in the treatment of alopecia which is a suspension of finely ground glass in laurel oil.

- 30 The composition of the present invention is a dark brown fluid resulting from the suspension in laurel (or bay) oil of glass which has been finely ground for example to the degree of fineness which may be achieved using a mortar and pestle.
35 The glass should have a degree of fineness that when applied to the scalp with gentle pressure will not cause visible bleeding. For the purpose of providing a composition of suitable viscosity for its application to the scalp, one part by weight of finely ground glass is preferably suspended in from
40 2.5 to 6 parts by weight of laurel oil. The most preferred ratio has been found to be 1 part by weight of ground glass to 4 parts by weight of laurel oil.

- 45 As with any dermatological treatment, it is desirable that the condition be detected as early as possible and treatment commenced without delay. Indeed it has been found that the composition of the present invention is most
50 efficacious if no treatment of the type indicated above which results in the killing of roots in the infected area has previously been attempted. The composition of this invention is preferably preceded by a washing of the scalp with an

- 55 aqueous extract from laurel leaves. This has been found to shorten the treatment time.

- Treatment with this aqueous extract and with the composition of this invention may be simply by gentle application with cotton wool. Treatment
60 about four times per week over a period of two weeks have been found to suffice if the alopecia is detected in its early stages and treatment commenced without delay. In general 10 to 20 treatments at a frequency of about 4 times per
65 week have been found to be effective in preventing the spread of alopecia. Only in bad cases where the alopecia has previously been neglected has it been found that, provided no other treatment has been carried out the effect of
70 which is to kill the roots, treatment with the composition of the present invention over a period of about 3 months is required.

- The term "glass" is employed herein to denote any vitreous composition in a ground state. It is preferred that common clear glass be employed
75 since this possesses as minimum content of oxidic impurities. However glasses and vitreous lacquer compositions may be employed provided their oxidic content is dermatologically acceptable.

- 80 The laurel oil which is employed in the compositions of the present invention may also be of any dermatologically acceptable quality such as that specified in British Pharmacopoeia. It has been found that this oil is characteristically
85 effective in the treatment of alopecia when used in conjunction with the ground glass, notwithstanding the fact that such beneficial effect is not observed when employing the laurel oil on its own, as has been the case hitherto in
90 astringent compositions employed in barbers' salons.

CLAIMS

1. A composition for use in the treatment of alopecia which is a suspension of finely ground glass laurel oil.
95 2. A composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises one part by weight of the finely ground glass in 2.5 to 6 parts by weight of laurel oil.
3. A composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ground glass and laurel oil are present in the ratio by weight of 1:4.
100 4. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the glass employed is common clear glass.
105 5. A composition for use in the treatment of alopecia as claimed in claim 1, substantially as described herein.